



For the past 22 years I have been the Medical Director of ICEMA. During that time ICEMA and EMS have undergone many changes. In the beginning the radical idea of having paramedics intubate patients in the field was unheard of. The popular myth was that paramedics could not possibly do such a highly technical procedure. ICEMA was one of the first EMS systems to teach paramedics this skill. I developed a training program for paramedics to be taught intubation in the operating room under the tutelage of Anesthesiologists at the San Bernardino County Hospital. This program is still on going and one of the few where paramedics learn in the controlled setting of an operating room.

ICEMA has been controversial and on the forefront of EMS. This is witnessed by the often quoted San Bernardino City vs. County decision that clarified many important aspects of EMS law in California. ICEMA paramedics have always had an aggressive scope of practice. Many trial studies have been conducted in the region. The DNR study done in cooperation with the San Bernardino Medical Society was the prototype for the California Medical Association and later for the State. Today ICEMA is involved with a Wilderness EMT-1 expanded scope of practice trial study and a multicenter trial on CPAP use in patients who present not only in Congestive Heart Failure (CHF) but also those with dyspnea. The early data from both appears promising.

ICEMA has been like a child to me. I have watched it grow from its infancy to the system it has become. Because of this it is with deep regret that I leave the position of Medical Director for such an outstanding and progressive organization. My contract with the County of San Bernardino will be terminated effective April 22, 2006. Until then I will continue to work on those projects such as Cardiac Care Hospital designation which have been started. To all the Pre Hospital Care providers and the agencies they represent I hope that you continue to deliver the excellent care to the people in the ICEMA Region. To my successor I wish you foresight and the Wisdom of Solomon. I hope you base your future decisions on what is best for the system as well as the people who are entrusted to your care.

Sincerely,


Conrad Salinas M.D.